

[54] **STROKE CODED KEYBOARD SWITCH ASSEMBLY**

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[58] Field of Search **200/5, 159 B; 179/90 K**

[56]

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[57]

ABSTRACT

A stroke coded keyboard utilizes a switch matrix having crosspoints comprising deformable membrane contacts or switches. Each keyboard character or element is defined by the signals generated by the closure of contacts which produce a specified sequence of connections of i pairs of first (n) and second (m) conductors so that $(nm)^i$ distinct characters can be defined on the keyboard by $n+m$ unique conductors, where n and m are any positive integers greater than one and i is any positive integer greater than one and less than or equal to nm . An element can be keyed very rapidly by the stroke of a stylus on the top surface of the keyboard which sequentially closes the contacts defining the element. The keyboard can be utilized in many configurations such as a data entry keyboard, repertory dialer, or in parallel with or as a replacement for telephone keyboards.

The character element is defined by the signals generated by a specified sequence of connections of i pairs of first (n) and second (m) conductors so that $(nm)^i$ distinct characters can be defined on the keyboard by $N+M$ conductors, where n and m are any positive integers greater than one and i is any positive integer greater than one or less than or equal to nm .

16 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

